

MAY 6 2003

Attorney Docket No. 13DV-13486 (07783-0047)
U.S. Serial No. 09/900,546

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
MAY 08 2003
GROUP 1700

In re Application of: Irene T. Spitsberg :

Serial No.: 09/900,546 : Group Art Unit: 1762

Filed: July 6, 2001 : Examiner: Timothy Howard Meeks

For: METHOD FOR IMPROVING THE TBC LIFE OF A SINGLE PHASE PLATINUM
ALUMINIDE BOND COAT BY PREOXIDATION HEAT TREATMENT

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REMARKS

This correspondence is filed in response to the Election Requirement dated April 2, 2003. Claims 1-19 are pending in the subject application, but the claims are subject to a restriction requirement. Applicant provisionally elects claims 1-18 with traverse.

The Examiner states that claims 1-18 are drawn to a method, classified in class 427, subclass 632, while claim 19 is drawn to a component, classified in class 428, subclass 632.

The invention is directed to a novel method of producing weld wire, and more specifically superalloy weld wire, that is free of inclusions and porosity. The weld wire is produced by directionally solidifying a rod shaped ingot while feeding an advancing solidification interface to eliminate the creation of shrinkage cavities. The end of the rod-shaped ingot, which typically includes inclusions and impurities, is removed. The rod-shaped ingot is placed in a container, sealed, capped and extruded to form weld wire. Both the method of manufacturing the weld wire and weld wire, claimed as a product by process, are claimed.